REMARKS

Claims 17, 19 and 21 have been amended to incorporate the features of claims 10, 18, 20 and 22, and claims 10, 18, 20 and 22 have subsequently been cancelled. Claims 11, 13 and 16 have been amended to depend from claim 9 and claims 19 and 21 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections. Claims 22-26 have been added to further scope the invention and are fully supported on page 8, lines 4-11 and 21-24, and Figs. 4, 5 and 7. No new matter has been entered by any of the foregoing amendments.

Turning to the Examiner's objection to claims 19-22 under 35 USC §101 for stating non-statutory subject matter, claims 19 and 21 have been amended to specify that an item identification, a key identifier and a user input is input through a user input unit of a computer and that a display unit of the computer is used to present an instance of a non-command user interface item to the user. Thus, it is believed the Examiner's objection of claims 19-22 has been overcome.

Turning to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-22 under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Tervo, U.S. Application 2002/0036620 A1 in view of Samsung, European patent no. 1107544 A2, the Examiner's rejection is in error.

Claims 1, 9, 17, 19 and 21 recite a shortcut key manager comprising an assignment handler for assigning the shortcut key to the non-command user interface item type, and a shortcut key handler for presenting an instance of the non-command user interface item type to a user when the user uses the shortcut key. Allowing the assignment of shortcut keys to non-command user interface items and presenting an instance of the non-command user interface item to a user when the user uses the shortcut key improves the user workflow. As an instance

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of the non-command user interface item is presented to the user, the user does not have to search for the instance of the desired non-command item, e.g., a type of item on a toolbar or anywhere else in the user interface.

In contrast, Tervo does not disclose presenting a non-command user interface item to the user when the user uses a shortcut key assigned for a desired non-command user interface item. Tervo is directed to a system and method for accessing screen fields or functions. Tervo's system uses a keyboard monitor module 10 to monitor keyboard activity, and when it determines a keystroke requesting a specific field or function has been entered, it proceeds to either activate the field locator module 40 to position the cursor or activate the function requested (paragraph 0022). The field locator module 40 positions the cursor to a specific field when an associated keystroke is performed. In order to provide a quick access to the specific field, Tervo positions to the specific field the cursor for keyboard entry, i.e., the cursor with a keyboard focus. As stated in paragraph 0006, each keystroke may "be associated with a different field based upon which screen of the possible screens that is currently active". Tervo's cursor positioning is performed on fields on the screen that is currently active. Since the fields are already on the active screen, Tervo does not consider presenting a desired specific field to the user when the user uses the associated keystroke, and thus, Tervo does not disclose or suggest such presentation. For example, in Tervo, when a user presses the ALT C key, the cursor with a keyboard focus "would be positioned to the blank field to add a client" (paragraph 0030; Fig. 6). This action is simply positioning the cursor on a specific field on the active window, and does not present an instance of a specific field to the user.

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This cursor positioning of Tervo is equivalent to prior art disclosed in the Background section on page 2, line 13 of the present specification. As described in the specification, this approach requires the desired field to be visible on an active window to be able to receive the cursor positioning with a keyboard focus, and it requires the user to search the screen to see where the desired field is located on the screen.

In contrast, as recited in the independent claims, the non-command user interface item is presented to the user when the user uses its assigned shortcut key. Thus, the user does not have to look for the non-command user interface item, and the shortcut keys can be used for a non-command user interface item that does not appear on an active window when the user depresses the assigned shortcut key.

In addition, the presentation of an instance of the non-command item may be carried out, as described in the embodiment exemplified in claims 4 and 13 of the instant application, such that a window with an instance of the non-command user interface item is displayed. In another embodiment of the instant application, exemplified in claims 5 and 14, the window is displayed at the current cursor location, e.g., at the current mouse cursor location as shown in Figures 5 and 7. Further, in one embodiment exemplified in claims 23 and 25 of the instant application, the presentation of an instance of the desired non-command item may be performed by displaying a small pop-up window to display the instance at a current mouse cursor location when the user uses the shortcut key assigned to the non-command user interface item, and a keyboard focus is set to the non-command user interface item displayed in the pop-up window. As exemplified in claims 24 and 26 of the instant application, the pop-up window may be free of command user interface items or non-command items other than the instance of

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the non-command user interface item to which the shortcut key is assigned. Tervo does not disclose or suggest any of these features of the non-command item.

Tervo also discloses the activation of a function when its associated keystroke is used. This feature relates to a command user interface item. The difference between a command user interface item and a non-command user interface item is described on pages 1-2 in the Background of the Invention section and on pages 5-6 of the Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments section of the present application. A command item when selected will invoke a command, feature or function. Examples of command items include the File-New command as described on page 1, lines 1-29 and page 6, lines 7-15 of the application. Command items invoke a specific action when selected. If a shortcut key is assigned to a command item type, the command can be invoked simply by pressing the shortcut key, rather than pressing or selecting an instance of command item. It is an alternative input to bypass the use of the visible command item yet accomplish the same goal of invoking the command. A non-command item does not invoke an action when selected, but typically will set the keyboard focus on the control itself, as described on page 6, line 16 to page 7, line 2 of the application. Examples of non-command items include a drop down list box and edit boxes, as described on page 2, lines 1-9 of the application. Since selecting a non-command item does not invoke a command, assigning a shortcut key to a non-command item type also cannot invoke a command.

Tervo's function activation relates to a command item, and thus, it is different from the invention as claimed in the present application, which relates to non-command items.

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The Examiner also indicated in his action that Tervo does not explicitly teach the initial assignment tools: item receiver, key receiver and assignment handler. The Examiner stated Samsung's method of defining soft-keys for user selection of desired functions provided for defining the hot keys used to immediately initiate desired functions by the user teaches these features.

As the Examiner indicated, Samsung discloses a method by which the user can assign a hot key to a sub-menu item. The sub-menu item disclosed by Samsung is an item that, when selected, issues a command and initiates a desired function. Assigning a hot key to such a sub-menu item allows the item's function to be initiated simply by pressing the hot key, rather than pressing or selecting the sub-menu item. Thus, the disclosed sub-menu item is a command item, not a non-command item. And, Samsung only describes the assignment of hot keys to command items, and does not disclose or suggest any shortcut key assignment to non-command items. Neither Tervo nor Samsung disclose or suggest any shortcut key assignment to a non-command item and presenting an instance of the non-command items to the user. Thus, even if one skilled in the art attempts to combine these references, he would apply hot key assignments of Samsung to command items only, thereby failing to provide shortcut key assignments to non-command items and present an instance of each non-command item to the user when its shortcut key is used. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 9, 17, 19, 21 and all claims dependent therefrom, cannot be achieved or rendered obvious by any combination of Tervo and Samsung.

Turning to the Examiner's rejection of claims 2, 3, 11 and 12, the Examiner has indicated that Tervo discloses setting of a user control focus as recited in claims 2 and 11 and

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positioning of the cursor recited in claims 3 and 12. As discussed above, Tervo simply positions the cursor with a keyboard focus to a specific field, and does not disclose presentation of an instance of a non-command item to the user, as recited in parent claims 1 and 9. Thus, the rejection of claims 2, 3, 11 and 12 cannot be maintained.

Furthermore, the Examiner has indicated that Tervo discloses the features of claims 4-6 and 13-16. Applicants respectfully submit that all Tervo shows in Figures 5 and 6 is that the cursor with a keyboard focus is positioned in the fields corresponding to Alt A (Fig. 5) and Alt C (Fig. 6) on the active windows. Tervo's system moves the cursor with a keyboard focus and positions it onto a field that corresponds to the selected keystroke. It does not display a window at a current cursor position. Tervo does not present an instance of a non-command item to the user, or displaying of a window with an instance of the non-command user interface item at a current cursor position, and therefore cannot render obvious claims 4-6 and 13-16.

As for the rejection of claims 7, 8 and 16, the Examiner has indicated that Tervo shows that prior to invocation of the interactive focus placement, Tervo's non-command item is not visual when it is not selected. Tervo discloses that "each keystroke may .... be associated with a different field based upon which screen of the possible screens that is currently active" (paragraph 0006). Thus, the field of interest is visible on an active window. In any event, claims 7, 8 and 16 depend on claims 1 and 9, which have been distinguished over Tervo as discussed above.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

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In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 26, 2004, at Tucson, Arizona.

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